RPF and Station Staff have been launched to prevent carriage of inflammable material etc. and intensive publicity campaigns have been launched to educate travelling public.

Statement by Railway Officials at accident site

676. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in earlier accidents and even after the recent derailment of Magadh Express, Railway officials at the site gave statements to the Press covering the derailment that this was a case of sabotage;

(b) if so, whether Railways feels the need to instruct Railway officials to restrain from making such statements to the Press about possible causes of accidents before the investigation of each rail mishap is completed;

(c) whether Railways is willing to release transparent investigation reports on all rail mishaps in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Publication of inquiry reports of serious train accidents, is done by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, who works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Rail Line between Samdari and Jasai

677. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of passenger trains running between Samdari-Barmer-Jasai of Rajasthan;

(b) whether there has been inordinate delay in laying of railway lines in that section;

(c) if so, the deails thereof and reasons therefor; and

(d) action contemplated by Government to expedite the rail passenger service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) At present, no passenger trains are running between Samdari-Barmer-Jasai due to Gauge conversion work.

(b) and (c) Broad Gauge track has already been laid between Samdari and Jasai. Signalling and other connected works are in progress and likely to be completed in a month's time.

(d) It is proposed to introduce two pairs of passenger trains between Jodhpur and Barmer via Samdari after the completion of Gauge conversion work.

Commercial use of surplus land

678. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has droped its Plan to commercially exploit its surplus land resources;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) if not, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways have taken up 62 large sites (having area more than 1000 sq. m) for commercial development of land/air space. Preliminary/ feasibility market studies have been completed for 46 sites. Out of these, financial bids in 7 cases have been finalised. Powers have also been delegated to General Managers to execute small projects (upto 1000 sq.m. area) in other than 4 metropolitan cities. Rs. 4.0 crore have so far been realised from property development.